

[English]

Radius for Telephone Subscribers

659. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to remove to restriction of 20 Kms to 25 Kms radius for Telephone subscribers to provide the facility to the metropolitan and other cities adjacent to villages; and

(b) if so, since when and the exchange centres affected by this action with the last and places of the exchanges in the States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

Policy of Exchange of Detained Militants for Abducted Persons

660 KUMARI VIMALA
VERMA:
SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have evolved a national policy to end exchange of detained militants for abducted persons to curb the increasing trend of kidnappings and abductions resorted for frequently by militants to secure release of their companions;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to enforce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M.

JACOB): (a) to (c). Kidnappings by terrorist groups for ransom or securing release of arrested associates and cadres have increased recently, which is causing concern. This trend is noticeable in respect of many terrorists movements in the country. It has, therefore, been considered necessary to evolve a comprehensive strategy to deal with the problem. The matter is under examination at this stage.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay, North): Mr. Speaker, sir, on 22nd November a serious tragedy took place in Manor in Thane district on Bombay-Ahmedabad highway near my constituency in which seventy one Adivasis lost their lives and 55 Adivasi are struggling against death. I am raising this matter here because the Central Government is connected with this incident.

This incident took place because the necessary precautions were not taken while loading the natural gas by Bharat Petroleum. Bharat Petroleum did not care to follow the prescribed rules regarding loading of highly inflammable liquid. Secondly, the standards or norms set by the international Society for chemical and petroleum (*Interruptions*), were also not followed while loading the natural gas.

To conclude, I would like to say that it was a case of criminal negligence. The place where this accident took place is an accident prone area. The Central Government has agreed to make the highway between Bombay and Manor - a four lane highway but the same has not been implemented so far. That is why accident take place there too frequently.

Adivasis lost their lives in this accident.

They rushed to the spot of accident thinking that they might get kerosene from there as there is always scarcity of kerosene in this Adivasi area and all this led to the tragedy(Interruptions)..... Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Central Government and the prime Minister to make a statement on it and inform the House about the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard. I also demand that Central Government should give compensation to the next kin of the persons killed in the tragedy.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also would like to draw the attention of the House to the same incident to which Mr. Ram Naik has referred to. Sixty one people have been charred to death because of this turning of this truck. I would urge upon the Central Government in this respect to reconsider the Motor Vehicles Act and to amend it in such a manner that stern action can be taken against such owners of the truck who allow the drivers who are illiterate and who are not conversant with these facts or who do not have special experience as far as carrying of such inflammable liquids are concerned.

Therefore it is necessary to look into the Motor Vehicles Act promptly and to bring forward necessary amendments so that stern action can be taken in this respect.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I want to draw the attention of the House and also the Government that the major trade unions of our country have decided to go on All-India strike on 29th November, 1991. The trade unions of all Public undertakings, airlines undertakings, insurance companies and all major trade unions have decided to join hands to give a call for All India strike on 29th November. This will paralyse the entire industry and will

also cause a great damage to the country because they have a feeling that the Government's economic policies and their approach to public undertakings is anti-people and anti-working class.

I want to bring to the notice of this House and the Government that the Government must initiate talks with the major trade unions to save the situation. Government should also try to take certain remedial measures in consultation with the trade unions so that such a situation does not arise.

I want to know whether the Government is taking notice of this serious situation.

The Prime Minister has already said in the House that he would not like this distorted view to prevail in the country that Government is taking anti-public sector attitude. The Prime Minister himself said that he wants a fullfledged discussion in this house. But to make such a general statement on the floor of the House is not enough if the trade unions are not being contacted and if certain concrete initiatives are not taken.

I would like to know whether the Government is observing the situation and is going to take any initiative on that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is a very vital issue concerning the very future of this country and its industrial and economic policies. We have found that even before coming to parliament and even without taking the parliament and the people into confidence, important changes have been made in our industrial and economic policies, thus completely giving a go-bye to the national commitment to public sector.

We now understand that loan has been taken from IMF. We do not know the particulars till today. We are yet to know the terms and conditions.